IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method executed in a computer of computing a distance measure between first and second mixture type probability distribution functions, $G(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \mu_i g_i(x)$, and $H(x) = \sum_{k=1}^{K} \gamma_k h_k(x)$, pertaining to audio data, the improvement characterized by:

said distance measure being

$$D_M(G,H) = \min_{w=[\omega_{ik}]} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \sum_{k=1}^{K} \omega_{ik} d(g_i, h_k),$$

where $d(g_i, h_k)$ is a function of the distance between a component, g_i, of the first probability distribution function and a component, h_k, of the second probability distribution function where $\sum_{i=1}^{N} \mu_i = 1$ ~~and,~~ $\sum_{k=1}^{K} \gamma_k = 1$, ~~and~~ $\omega_{ik} \geq 0$ <u>for</u> $1 \leq i \leq N$, <u>and for</u> $1 \leq k \leq K$ <u>, where for at least one value of i $\omega_{ik} > 0$ for at least two values of k, and</u>

$$\sum_{k=1}^{K} \omega_{ik} = \mu_i, 1 \leq i \leq N, \sum_{i=1}^{N} \omega_{ik} = \gamma_k, 1 \leq k \leq K.$$

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein at least one of said first and second mixture probability distribution functions includes a Gaussian Mixture Model.

3. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein the element distance between the first and second probability distance functions is a Kullback Leibler Distance.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the first and second probability distribution functions are Gaussian mixture models derived from audio segments.

5. (Currently Amended) A computer program embedded in a storage medium for computing a distance measure between first and second mixture type probability

distribution functions, $G(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \mu_i g_i(x)$, and $H(x) = \sum_{k=1}^{K} \gamma_k h_k(x)$, pertaining to audio data, the improvement comprising a software module that evaluates said distance measure in accordance with equation:

$$D_M(G,H) = \min_{w=[\omega_{ik}]} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \sum_{k=1}^{K} \omega_{ik} d(g_i, h_k),$$

where $d(g_i, h_k)$ is a function of distance between a component, g_i, of the first probability distribution function and a component, h_k, of the second probability distribution function

where

$$\sum_{i=1}^{N} \mu_i = 1 \ and \ \sum_{k=1}^{K} \gamma_k = 1,$$

~~and~~

$$\omega_{ik} \geq 0, \ 1 \leq i \leq N, 1 \leq k \leq K,$$

there exists some value of i for which $\omega_{ik} > 0$ for at least two values of k, and

$$\sum_{k=1}^{K} \omega_{ik} = \mu_i, \ 1 \leq i \leq N, \ \sum_{i=1}^{N} \omega_{ik} = \gamma_k, \ 1 \leq k \leq K.$$

6. (Original) The computer program according to claim **5** wherein at least one of said first and second mixture probability distribution functions includes a Gaussian Mixture Model.

7. (Original) The computer program according to claim **5** wherein the element distance between the first and second probability distance functions includes Kullback Leibler Distance.

8. (Original) The computer program of claim **5** wherein the first and second probability distribution functions are Gaussian mixture models derived from audio segments.

9. (Currently Amended) A computer system for computing a distance measure between first and second mixture type probability distribution functions,

$G(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \mu_i g_i(x)$, and $H(x) = \sum_{k=1}^{K} \gamma_k h_k(x)$, pertaining to audio data comprising:

memory for storing said audio data;

a processing module for deriving one of said mixture type probability distribution functions from said audio data; and

a processing module for evaluating said distance measure in accordance with

$$D_M(G,H) = \min_{w=[\omega_{ik}]} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \sum_{k=1}^{K} \omega_{ik} d(g_i, h_k),$$

where $d(g_i, h_k)$ is a function of the distance between a component, g_i, of the first probability distribution function and a component, h_k, of the second probability distribution function,

where

$$\sum_{i=1}^{N} \mu_i = 1 \ and \ \sum_{k=1}^{K} \gamma_k = 1,$$

and

$$\omega_{ik} \geq 0, \ 1 \leq i \leq N, 1 \leq k \leq K,$$

and there exists some value of i for which $\omega_{ik} > 0$ for at least two values of k,

and

$$\sum_{k=1}^{K} \omega_{ik} = \mu_i, 1 \leq i \leq N, \sum_{i=1}^{N} \omega_{ik} = \gamma_k, 1 \leq k \leq K.$$

10. (Original) The computer system according to claim **9** wherein at least one of said first and second mixture probability distribution functions includes a Gaussian Mixture Model.

11. (Original) The computer system according to claim **9** wherein the element distance between the first and second probability distance functions includes Kullback Leibler Distance.

12. (Original) The computer system of claim **9** wherein the first and second probability distribution functions are Gaussian mixture models derived from audio segments.

13. (Currently Amended) A method <u>executed in a computer</u> for computing a distance measure between a mixture type probability distribution function

$$G(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \mu_i g_i(x),$$ where μ_i is a weight imposed on component, $g_i(x)$, and a mixture

type probability distribution function $H(x) = \sum_{k=1}^{K} \gamma_k h_k(x),$ where γ_k is a weight imposed

on component h_k comprising the steps of:

computing an element distance, d(g$_i$, h$_k$), between each g$_I$ and each h$_k$ where $1 \le i \le N, 1 \le k \le K,$

computing an overall distance, denoted by $D_M(G,H)$, between the mixture probability distribution function G, and the mixture probability distribution function H, based on a weighted sum of the all element distances,

$$\sum_{i=1}^{N} \sum_{k=1}^{K} \omega_{ik} d(g_i, h_k),$$

wherein weights $\omega_{i,k}$ imposed on the element distances d(g$_i$, h$_k$), are chosen so that the overall distance $D_M(G,H)$ is minimized, subject to

$$\omega_{ik} \ge 0, \ 1 \le i \le N, \ 1 \le k \le K$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^{N} \omega_{ik} = \gamma_k, \ 1 \le k \le K, \text{ and}$$

$$\sum_{k=1}^{K} \omega_{ik} = \mu_i, \ 1 \le i \le N, \underline{\text{and}}$$

<u>there exists some value of i for which $\omega_{ik} > 0$ for at least two values of k.</u>

14. (Original) The method according to claim **13** wherein at least one of said first and second mixture probability distribution functions includes a Gaussian Mixture Model.

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15. (Original) The method according to claim **13** wherein the element distance between the first and second probability distance functions includes Kullback Leibler Distance.

16. (Original) The method of claim **13** wherein the first and second probability distribution functions are Gaussian mixture models derived from audio segments.

17. (New) A method executed in a computer for content-based searching of stored data comprising the steps of:

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identifying segments in said data;

developing a probability distribution function for each of said segments from data points within each of said segments;

developing a distance measure between a probability distribution function of a chosen data segment and probability distribution function for said segments; and

applying a threshold to the developed distance measure to identifying segments with a distance measure relative to said chosen data segment that is below a preselected threshold value, where said distance is directly computed according to a measure that guarantees to satisfy the non-negativeness, symmetry, and triangular inequality properties of a distance measure.

18. (New) Them method of claim **17** where said chosen data segment is one of said segments, or a provided data segment.

19. (New) The method of claim **17** where said stored data is audio-visual data.

20. (New) The method of claim **17** where said stored data comprises segments that carry speech of a speaker.

21. (New) The method of claim 20 where a segment of said segments is characterized by a speaker that predominates an audio signal associated with said segment.

22. (New) The method of claim 20 where said chosen segment is a segment that carries speech of a particular speaker.

23. (New) The method of claim 17 where said data is of a television program.

24. (New) The method of claim 17 where said distance measure between a first probability function, $G(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \mu_i g_i(x)$, and a second probability function,

$H(x) = \sum_{k=1}^{K} \gamma_k h_k(x)$, is

$$D_M(G,H) = \min_{w=[\omega_{ik}]} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \sum_{k=1}^{K} \omega_{ik} d(g_i, h_k),$$

where

- $d(g_i, h_k)$ is a function of the distance between a component, g_i, of the first probability distribution function and a component, h_k, of the second probability distribution function,

- $\sum_{i=1}^{N} \mu_i = 1$ and $\sum_{k=1}^{K} \gamma_k = 1$,

- $\omega_{ik} \geq 0, \ 1 \leq i \leq N, 1 \leq k \leq K$,

- $\sum_{k=1}^{K} \omega_{ik} = \mu_i, 1 \leq i \leq N, \sum_{i=1}^{N} \omega_{ik} = \gamma_k, 1 \leq k \leq K$, and

- there exists some value of i for which $\omega_{ik} > 0$ for at least two values of k.

25. (New) A method executed in a computer comprising the steps of:

identifying speaker segments in provided audio-visual data based on speech contained in said data;